

# American Girl®

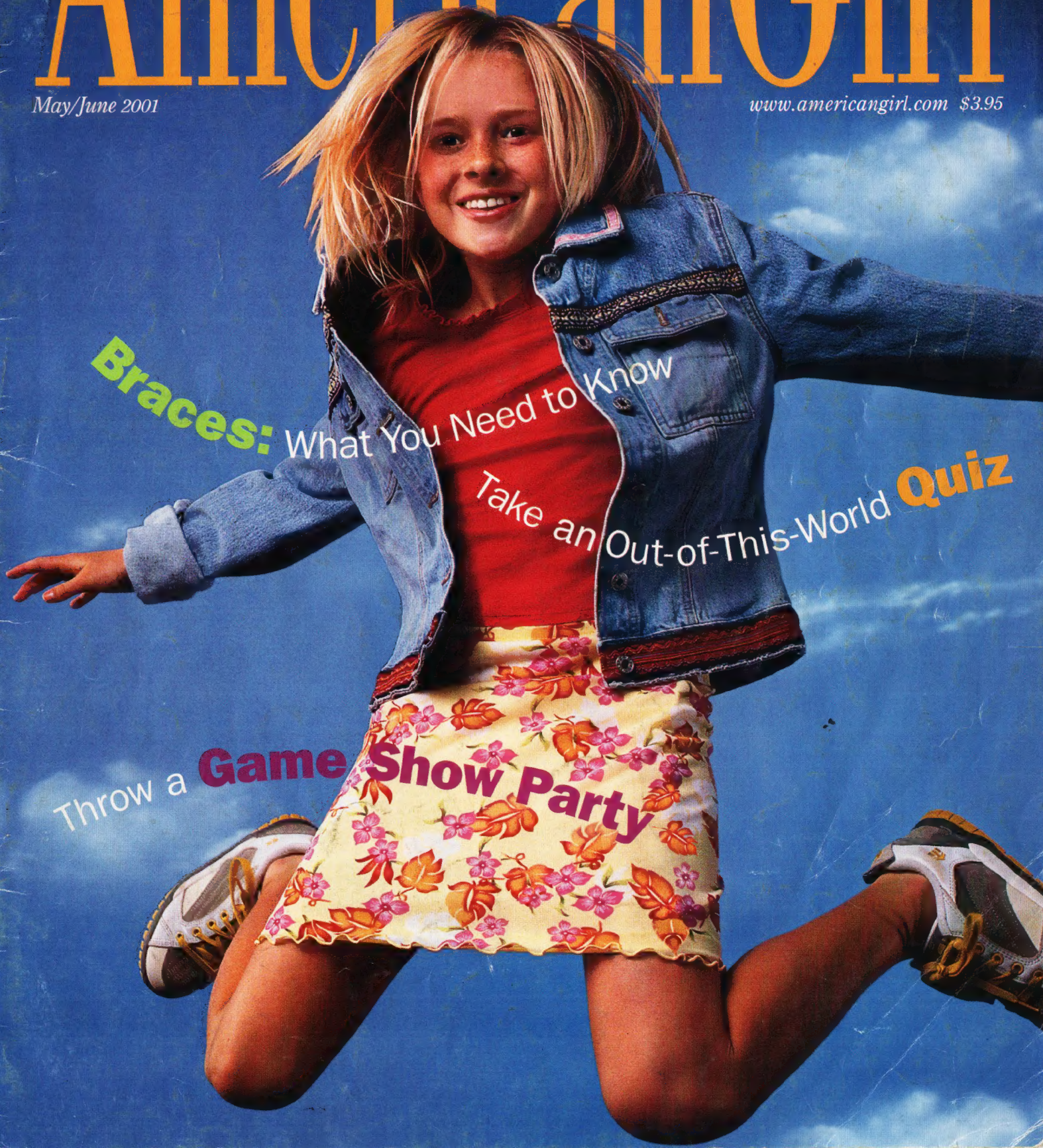
May/June 2001

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**Braces:** What You Need to Know

Take an Out-of-This-World **Quiz**

Throw a **Game Show Party**





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**Plus: Paper Doll #49**

Addie Bencomo

**See AG online!**

Visit [www.americangirl.com](http://www.americangirl.com) to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



## Game Show Party

Throw a great party that will keep your guests guessing!

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Meet a girl who thinks Space Camp is a blast!

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# American Girl®

Celebrating Girls, Yesterday and Today®



## Test Your Celestial Style

What's your planetary personality? Take our quiz to find out!

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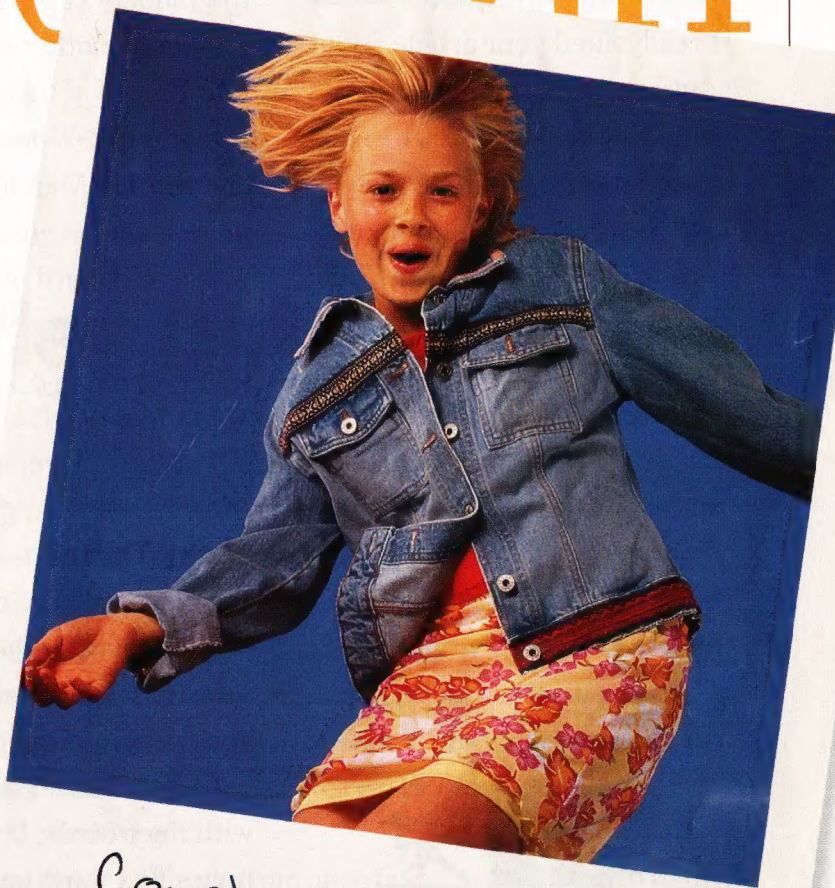
## Flowery Fun

Make pretty gifts from pressed flowers.

# 12



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!



Courtney Ledford

## On the Cover

Meet Courtney Ledford, age 11. How did she jump so high? Easy—she was on a trampoline! To see the pictures we *didn't* use on the cover, go to [www.americangirl.com](http://www.americangirl.com).



# Letters from You



## Awesome Antiques



I really liked your article about *Antiques Roadshow* in your January/February 2001 issue. I went to *Antiques Roadshow* with my grandparents when it was in South Carolina last June. I brought my great-great-great-great-grandfather's Civil War revolver, and the appraiser said it was worth between \$10,000 and \$30,000! Even though I was disappointed that I didn't get to be on TV, I still had fun. Thanks for a great story!

*Bailey Donoghue*  
Age 12, Florida



## A Purr-fect Cat

Thank you for the "Paper Cats" in January/February. I have always wanted a cat, and the information about the different breeds made me think about which kind of cat I want to get.

*Rachel Summar*  
Age 12, Tennessee



## Oz Oops!

After I read about the funny film flubs in "Snoozapalooza" from

the January/February issue, I noticed another mistake in *The Wizard of Oz* the next time I watched it. When Dorothy and the Tin Man first meet, he pounds on his empty chest and walks backward before she even oils his legs. Look for it!

*Katherine Ness*  
Age 11, Virginia



## Lucky Thirteen

I'm glad that you included the play *Thirteen* in the January/February issue. I used to be very superstitious like Rosie, but when I acted out the play with my friends, I realized how silly I must have been behaving. Thank you!

*Julie Niewiadomski*  
Age 13, Michigan

## Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

**AmericanGirl**  
8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562



You can also send letters via e-mail to [im\\_agmag\\_editor@pleasantco.com](mailto:im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com).

No matter how you write us, be sure to include your name and birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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# Girls Express



## Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

## panache

**How to say it:** puh-NASH

**What it means:** flashy style or behavior

**Where it comes from:** *Panache* comes from the Italian word *penna*, which means "feather." Hundreds of years ago, plumes of feathers added style to soldiers' helmets.

**One way to use it:** "Brynn wore her new outfit with panache."



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer on page 42.

## Shirley Girl



Nearly everyone's watched Shirley Temple movies. Ashley Orr of New York got to be *in* one! Ashley plays the famous girl with curls in the TV movie *Child Star: The Shirley Temple Story*, which airs in May.

Before her audition, Ashley spent hours watching old movies as well as singing and tapping to tunes. Ashley, who's acted in Broadway plays, had plenty of competition—hundreds of girls tried out for the part! Afterward, the movie's producers showed Ashley's audition video to the real Shirley Temple Black. She loved it!

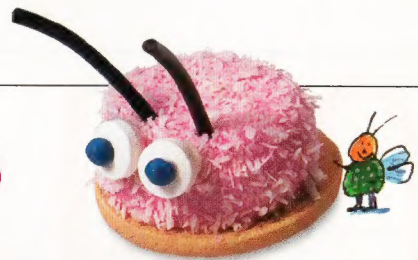
Ashley plays Shirley Temple from ages five to twelve. How does a ten-year-old play someone who's only five? For Ashley, it was easy. "My little brother is five," she says. "I just thought about how he acts!"



To look more like Shirley Temple (shown above), Ashley had to have her straight, waist-length hair cut and made into a wig. Ashley didn't mind having her locks chopped, though. "That way I didn't have to get my hair done in pin curls every day!"







## Winning Ways

Check out how these girls said  
"Happy Mother's Day!" ♥

### Maid for You



Marie Frank, 12, of Ohio made a clean sweep last year when she won \$600 worth of free maid service for her mom. Marie entered the "Why My Mother Deserves a Maid" essay contest held by The Maids International. Here's part of Marie's poem about her mail-carrying mom:

"Up at dawn, hides the yawn,  
Pays some bills, kisses John!  
Out by six,  
To work she goes—  
Carrying mail in rain, sleet, or snow."



### Cheers! ♥



Julie Williams, 14, of Florida loves milk mustache ads. So she entered her mom in the "Be a Model Mom" contest held by the National Dairy Council. They won! Julie and her mom will appear in ads in magazines this summer. Shown above is Julie's winning photo—see the real ad at [www.americangirl.com!](http://www.americangirl.com!)



## Bug Bites

Invent a bug, then eat it!

Decorate marshmallow puff cookies or snack cakes with licorice and other candies. Use cake decorations and candy buttons for eyes. Stick on candy with frosting.

They're  
unbeetleble!



## True Story

Mikayla's walkie-talkie picks up a call for help.



Dear American Girl,

One day I was home flipping through the channels on my walkie-talkie. Not much was coming in. Then I heard someone say, "Is anyone out there?" It was a man calling on his walkie-talkie for help! He was hiking with friends and had sprained his ankle. Usually my walkie-talkie only picks up radio signals within two miles, but this man was on a mountain 100 miles away!

I told my mom what was happening and took my walkie-talkie outside so I could hear the man better. I couldn't move more than a foot away or I'd lose touch with him.

My mom called the sheriff, who arranged for a helicopter. The sheriff had me ask the man to describe where he was, and then the sheriff would tell the pilot. I stayed in the same spot for four and a half hours talking to the injured man. The helicopter team had a hard time landing because the area was rocky, but they did rescue him.

Later, I got to meet Mr. Wyant, the man who was hurt. He was surprised I was so young! Now, my family always takes our walkie-talkie when we go camping—just in case we need to call for help!

Sincerely,

Mikayla Whitley  
Age 11, Washington

Here I am with  
Mr. Wyant after  
his rescue.





# Fresh as a ...

Our AG readers' springlike names sure put us in a sunny mood!



# It's Shoe Time!

Two pair of shoes in one? That's what we heard about Nike's new Ovidian sneaker. Take out the liner booties, turn the shoes inside out, and *ta-da!* You have a different-colored pair of sneakers. We asked two AG readers to try them on for size.

"The shoes were hard to reverse—my dad had to do it for me. To me, they look like bowling shoes! Boys may like them, but I don't think they're worth \$85."



★★★★☆  
Lindsey Chandler  
Age 12, Texas



"These shoes are lightweight and comfortable. I like how you can change their color in just a few minutes. They're not really my style, though."



★★★★☆  
Renate Hoffmann  
Age 13, Oregon



AG

# POLL



## Your answers:

In our January/February issue, we asked you which comic-strip girl you'd most like to treat to a nice makeover. Here's how you voted:

**Margaret: 282**

**Dolly: 176**

**Dot: 80**



"I'd change Margaret's bows," says Morgan Hurlocker, 12, of Montana. *Psst!* Margaret deserves a little pampering—this year she turns 50!

## Next question:

Have you ever quit something you loved because your friends thought it wasn't cool anymore? Check one.

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you answered yes, what was it?

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Cut out your answers and mail them to us with your name, address, and birth date.



## Room in Bloom

Your bedroom has the blahs? Try these tips for a fresh look:

Trade plain lightbulbs for pink ones.

Hold back sheer curtains with butterfly clips.

Hang a crystal in your window for dancing rainbows.

Turn over a new leaf! Ivy, jade, and cactus are all easy to grow.

## Help Wanted!

Give us your best shots! We're looking for great, colorful snapshots of you with your friends, with your pets, or just by yourself! Send your pictures to the address on page 2. Sorry, but we can't return photos, so please make copies of ones you want to keep.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Why this photo is special: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out your answers and mail them to us with your photos.



# School's Out! Song Contest

On the last day of our school,  
It is hard to obey rules.  
Chitting-chatting everywhere,  
Finding ways to do our hair—  
Then when the bell rings, we're done.  
Now it's time for summer fun!

Elizabeth GOWASACK  
Age 12, Georgia



Tinkle, tinkle, little bell,  
It's two o'clock and all is well.  
One more hour, we'll be free.  
Homework will be history.  
So tinkle, tinkle, little bell,  
If you ring early, we won't tell!

Sarah Laplante  
Age 11, Alabama



People rushing out the doors,  
Janitors sweeping up the floors,  
Sad good-byes for everyone—  
Leaving school is just not fun!  
Good-bye, teachers, I'll miss you,  
See you when the summer's through!

Alicia Schaumberg  
Age 11, New York

Good-bye, teachers, good-bye, friends  
Good-bye, homework, good-bye, pens.  
My desk is empty, so's my heart.  
I'm so sad when we're apart.  
Good-bye, teachers, good-bye, friends,  
Good-bye, homework, good-bye, pens.

Taylor Eike  
Age 9, New York

A++



We asked you to write a song about the last day of school. Sing the winning words to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Three o'clock is nearly here.  
School is over for the year.  
My report card's not too bad—  
That will please my mom and dad!  
It's three o'clock, the bell has rung,  
Summer break has now begun!

Carly Tippler  
Age 12, New Zealand



Even though Mom homeschools me,  
I get happy when I see  
All that schoolwork disappear  
Until new days of school next year.  
Pack away those books and things  
And dash away when Mom's bell rings!

Anna Elbon  
Age 11, Kentucky



**New  
Contest:  
Give Us  
a Hand!**

You may have drawn a turkey from the outline of your hand. Now make a turkey that represents something special about you! Does your turkey Rollerblade? Is it a sporty chick or a glamorous gobbler? Send your turkeys to the address on page 2 with your name, address, and birth date. Deadline: June 15, 2001. Contest winners will appear in our November/December issue. Need some inspiration? Take a peek at crafty Rosie O'Donnell's beautiful bird!



Freeze pops, ice cream, lemonade,  
Pools and hammocks in the shade,  
No more book reports or tests,  
Science, history, or recess.  
This is my idea of "cool"—  
It's what we call the end of school!

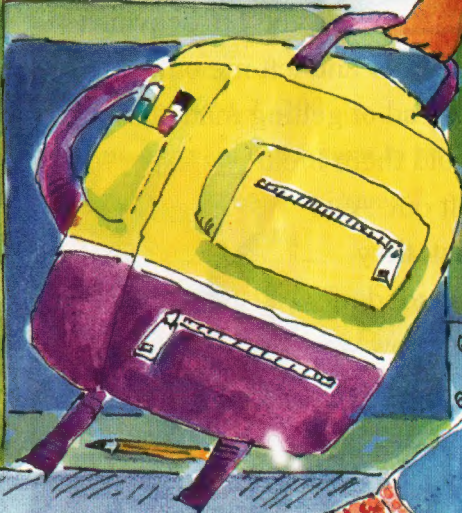
Hassie Rutherford  
Age 11, Texas



Come to  
my house  
today? Carly

Whoop-de-do! Schoolwork is done.  
Now it's time to have some fun!  
My grades were good, the teachers great.  
Now I get to graduate!  
Now my life's ahead of me—  
My future's bright as it can be!

Alyssa Krol  
Age 10, Delaware





# Heart to Heart Jealousy

What makes you feel jealous? How do you deal with it? What if a friend is jealous of you?



When my cousin came to visit, my mom played with

her and bought her clothes and toys. I didn't get anything, and I was jealous, which felt awful. Next time, I will join my mom in making my cousin feel happy instead.

*Brittany Leland*  
Age 12, Ohio



I got jealous when my friends did fun activities

together and left me out. But instead of getting mad at them, I told them I felt left out. After that, they included me, and now we all have fun together.



*Javia Collins*  
Age 11, Indiana



My good friend's family came to the United States

from China. They live in a very big house, and I often got jealous. My friend noticed, and she explained that it was a huge improvement for her family, because the houses in China were very small and cramped. From then on, I was happy for her family's success.

*Logan O'Rourke*  
Age 12, Ohio



When I heard that my sister's friend was getting

her ears pierced for a second time, it made me jealous. I'm three years older than she is, and I can't get my ears pierced until I'm 12. I just tell myself that my time will come.

*Meredith Prothero*  
Age 11, Virginia



I have a pet bird named Bobber. I'm his favorite

person. Whenever I snuggle with my mom, he gets jealous and goes crazy! I always snuggle with him afterward so that he doesn't feel bad.



*Brittany Harmon*  
Age 11, South Carolina



A good way to deal with jealousy is to write about

your feelings in a notebook. It's a safe place where you can let your feelings out. After a few days, read what you wrote, and you'll think, "I was jealous over *that*?"

*Lauren Robinson*  
Age 11, Pennsylvania





My baby brother was getting all the attention from my

aunts and uncles, and it made me jealous. My mom said it was just because he was little. That made me feel better.

*Stacey Becerril*  
Age 10, New York



My friend was really jealous because I could

draw horses better than she could. When she told me she was jealous, I gave her some tips. One of her drawings won first place!



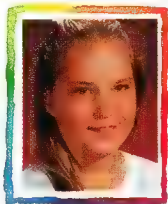
*Senevieve Schutzius*  
Age 10, Colorado



When someone can do something better than you

can, concentrate on yourself. Think of all the things that you can do well. You'll realize that there's no need to be jealous. You may even find that people are jealous of you!

*Brittany Bach*  
Age 12, Massachusetts



My friend played basketball really well, and I felt

jealous! So I practiced a lot, and I've improved. My friend still plays better, but I don't care because I'm better than I used to be. That's all that really matters.



*Kaiden Dillard*  
Age 11, California



When people get jealous because I have a dog, I share her and let them take her for a walk.

*Natalie Esber*  
Age 12, California



If you're jealous, think about all the blessings you

have, like family, friends, a home, and other things. Then you can take your mind off the nice clothes or cool trophy that someone else has. Some kids have nothing at all, so why be jealous when you have so much already?

*Allison Bucca*  
Age 12, Maryland



Being jealous happens to everyone. Remember:

no matter what someone has or what she wins, it doesn't mean she is better than you.

*Elizabeth Carcich*  
Age 9, New York

## Speak from Your Heart

**Next subject: Words of wisdom.**

**Is there a line from a book, song, or movie that has special meaning for you? What is it, and where did you find it? Did it inspire you, reflect something about you, or help you in real life?**

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to: **AmericanGirl**  
8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562. While we can print only about a dozen letters in each Heart to Heart, we read and learn from every one!

**Deadline: June 7, 2001.**

**Some answers will appear in the November/December issue. ★**





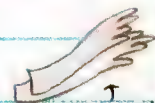
# Amelia's Notebook

## Dressed for Distress

by Marissa Moss

(and here-comes-the-bridesmaid Amelia!)

Things you wear at a wedding and nowhere else:



I gloves - not to keep fingers warm but to look elegant. They make me look like a cartoon character!

slip - as if wearing a dress isn't enough, you have to wear a dress under the dress!



pantyhose - sure to snag on toenails and make you sweat



high-heels - I want to be tall but NOT wobbly!



The hat makes the whole thing even more like a costume. Who wears hats indoors?



May 2

Mom's best friend, Corinne, is getting married, and she asked Cleo and me to be junior bridesmaids.

Corinne is an aerospace engineer, like Mom, and when she dresses up she wears suits. It's hard to imagine her in a frilly wedding dress.



I'm sooooo glad you can be part of the wedding.

You girls will look adorable!

Cleo's very excited. She says everyone will be looking at us, like we're on stage. I love being in plays, so that sounds like fun.

May 10

Today Mom took us to get the bridesmaid dresses Corinne picked out. Eek! I've never seen Corinne wear anything lacy, so I can't believe she expects me to wear a dress that looks like a pile of doilies. With all the other stuff I have to wear, I feel completely phony. Cleo loves it. She says she feels like a princess in a fairy tale. I just feel like the frog.

I love being the center of attention, don't you?

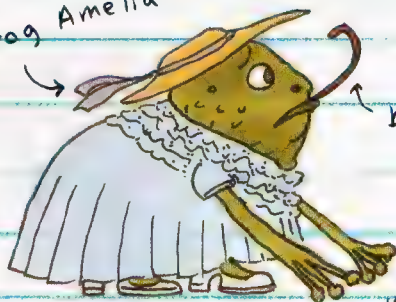


Princess Cleo

Yes, you may kiss my hand.

but no flies, please!

Frog Amelia



Now I know why the little brides and grooms on top of wedding cakes always look so stiff - they're of being held prisoner by their clothes!





Reasons why I  
don't want to be the  
center of attention:

What if I trip  
in my high heels?



What if I didn't  
know I'd have to rehearse for this!

This way?



This way?

June 2

I had no idea being in a wedding could be such hard work! And just thinking about everyone staring at me as I walk down the aisle ALONE makes me feel as itchy as the dress does. I told Mom I couldn't go to the wedding tomorrow because I had a bad stomach ache. She said that was just nerves and I have to go.

June 3

I still felt like a lead ball was in my stomach until we got to the church and I saw

Corinne.

She saw me looking  
at her and laughed.

I know this  
isn't the real me,  
but weddings are  
supposed to be like  
fairy tales. Thanks  
for being part of  
mine!



I'm so happy to have you  
here with me. You look like  
a princess!

I thought she looked  
beautiful! And suddenly  
I felt like a princess, too!  
I didn't care if my neck  
itched or my fingers  
were sweaty. I was  
an important part of  
Corinne's very important  
day!



The wedding  
cake tasted  
like a sponge,  
but the candied  
violets were  
pretty.



I didn't feel like a frog anymore. I didn't trip in my high heels, and I only sweated a little bit. It was perfect! At the reception, Cleo and I took off our shoes, hats, and gloves, and we danced together. Dressing up was O.K., but dressing down was even better! ★

not champagne,  
but sparkling  
cider

clink!

You were  
a great  
bridesmaid!



So  
were  
you!





## Floral Friends

Surround a picture of you and a friend with beautiful blossoms.

# Flowery Fun

Make great framed flower gifts and let your creativity bloom!

## You will need

- Small, flat flowers (daisies, verbena, pansies)
- Tissue paper
- Heavy books
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Tweezers
- Craft glue
- Colored pencils, pens, or markers
- Frame



## Pressing the Flowers

Gather flowers to be pressed. Place flowers between sheets of tissue paper on a flat surface. Pile on heavy books such as dictionaries or encyclopedias. Leave the flowers being pressed in a warm, dry spot in the house where they won't be disturbed. A closet shelf is a good place to put them. Check flowers after two weeks. Flowers are ready when they are flat and dry.

## Creating the Designs

Cut paper to fit in frame. Use tweezers to arrange dried flowers and create your design. Dab craft glue to back of each flower, and gently press flower to paper. Pressed flowers are fragile, so be careful not to rip petals. Let design dry for 24 hours and frame.





### Frame a Name

Write a friend's name using fun lettering, and border it with flowers.

### Graphic Garden

Use colored paper and flowers to create a cool design. Cut out words from magazines for a personal touch.



### Petal Letter

Give a friend her initial made of flower petals.







What if you could send a secret message with flowers?  
One hundred fifty years ago, that's just what girls did!

# Fl wers *Say it with*

During Victorian times, “reading” flowers for their meanings was a very popular pastime. People wrote and published special dictionaries that listed hundreds of kinds of flowers and what they stood for. Sending flowers to a friend or a loved one became an art in itself.

Victorian girls could spend hours decoding the garden gifts they received from friends and admirers. They traded and wore small, hand-tied bouquets

called *tussie-mussies*. Learning how to create the perfect tussie-mussie was an essential part of every “proper” girl’s education. Girls even used flowers to tell their friends’ fortunes. In one popular game, the type of flower a blindfolded girl picked from a bouquet told what her future boyfriend would be like!

You can have fun with flowers, too. Just check out the next page for the meanings of some common blooms and greens. ★

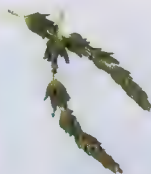




GERANIUM  
comfort



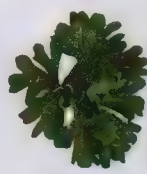
IVY  
constancy



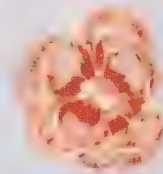
LAVENDER  
good luck



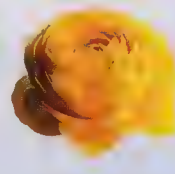
PANSY  
loving thoughts



PARSLEY  
thanks



PINKS (DIANTHUS)  
talent



RANUNCULUS  
rich in charms



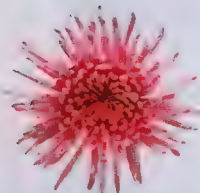
FERN  
fascination



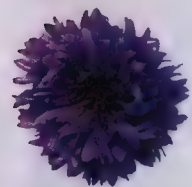
DAISY  
innocence



DAFFODIL  
respect



CHRYSANTHEMUM  
cheerfulness



BACHELOR'S BUTTON  
health/healing



AZALEA  
first love

## Petal Puzzlers

Decode the tussie-mussies below and  
match them with these messages:

**A.** Get well soon!

**B.** Thanks for your good advice.

**C.** Keep in touch!

**D.** You'll do great in the big show!



1. ROSEMARY remembrance  
+ IVY constancy  
+ YELLOW ROSE friendship  
+ PANSY loving thoughts  
= keep in touch



2. LAVENDER good luck  
+ BACHELOR'S BUTTON health/healing  
+ PANSY loving thoughts  
+ GERANIUM comfort  
= get well soon



3. LAVENDER good luck  
+ TULIP fame  
+ RANUNCULUS rich in charms  
+ PINKS talent  
= you'll do great in the big show



4. DAFFODIL respect  
+ PARSLEY thanks  
+ SAGE wisdom  
= thanks for your good advice

Answers on page 42.



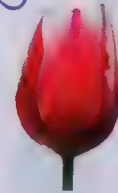
RED ROSE  
love



ROSEMARY  
remembrance



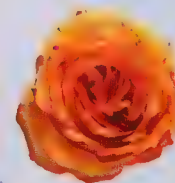
SAGE  
wisdom



TULIP  
fame



VIOLET  
modesty



YELLOW ROSE  
friendship



# The Whole You

## Top Ten Tips

# for Tin Grins



### 1. Treat your teeth.

Your braces will probably hurt after they're first put on *and* each time they're tightened. After a trip to the orthodontist, treat yourself to a cool smoothie, some soothing soup, or oodles of soft noodles. Tiffany, age 12, of Florida suggests this yummy milk shake recipe.

*Mmm! Milky Meltdown*  
 2 scoops vanilla ice cream  
 1/2 cup milk  
 2 tablespoons peanut butter  
 dash of cinnamon  
*Ask an adult to blend ingredients together. Slurp up!*



### 2. Add style to your smile.

With a rainbow of rubber bands and retainers that glow in the dark, you can make a fashion statement without saying a word. Try matching your bands to your outfits, like Ultima Rogers, 11, of Florida, shown at left.



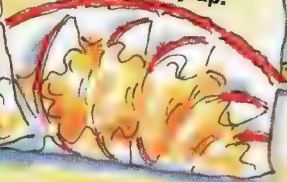
### 3. Don't cheat! Find another treat.

Hard foods, sticky sweets, and chewy gooey are off-limits for now—they could give you a broken bracket. Try these substitutes for your next crave wave:

Instead of popcorn, try a tasty snack like O-KE-DOKE Corn Puffs.



Instead of taffy apples, top thin apple slices with caramel syrup.



Instead of bubble gum, try bubble gum-flavored Popsicles. You can even get bubble gum-flavored toothpaste and floss to make brushing more fun.



Serena and Venus Williams



SMILE!

#### 4. Speak up.

If your braces are giving you problems, say so. Cassie, age 12, of Michigan found she couldn't play her trumpet with her new tin grin. "I couldn't get out high notes," she says. She talked to her band director, who told her about plastic lip protectors that fit over her braces. "They work great," Cassie says. "Watch out, high notes, here I come!"

#### 5. Shine up your metal mouth.

Feeling down in the mouth about braces? Try a sparkly lip gloss or a luscious lip balm.

#### 6. Grin and wear it.

Ditching your headgear or retainer once in a while could mean having to wear braces longer. You may even have to have braces put back on later. So stick with it!

SILVER  
SMILES

HEROES



Prince Harry

Chelsea Clinton

Straight smiles are in your future.



#### 7. Just say no to napkins.

Ever seen someone digging through stinky trash, searching for a lost retainer? Instead of wrapping your retainer in a napkin, keep a case handy and put your retainer away safely.

#### 8. Pack an emergency kit.

A tiny tube of toothpaste, a travel toothbrush, extra elastics, and wax are essential. Rachel, 11, of California also keeps a mirror handy. "That way I can see if there's any food stuck in the wires after I eat," she explains.

#### 9. Get the tooth truth.

Go to <http://tqjunior.thinkquest.org/5029/> for "Yo, It's Time for Braces." Madeline Gesslein, age 12, and her friends created this Web site as a class project. Read Madeline's journal about having her braces put on, learn helpful tips, and more.



#### 10. Be positive.

Tired of being a brace face? Look for the silver lining! Thirteen-year-old Katie of Pennsylvania says, "I have a pretty smile with braces, but I'm going to have an even prettier one after I get them off!" ★



Play a taped  
episode of your  
favorite TV game  
show as your  
guests arrive.

CDs like  
*The Best of TV  
Quiz and Game Show  
Themes* let you enjoy  
the sounds of real  
game shows.

# Game Show Party

Your friends will want to be  
contestants at this TV game show bash!



Help your guests survive their hunger  
with fun snacks like goldfish crackers  
and gummi worms.



## Invitation

Cut invitations from craft paper. Stick on plain white labels and write guests' names. Decorate with star stickers. Write party details on the back. For fun, deliver invitations in envelopes filled with play money and chocolate coins!



Come on Down  
to Kayla's Game Show Shindig!

Where: the Price house  
When: 3:00 P.M. on Saturday

RSVP 555-4263



## Staying Alive!

Your guests will need quick reflexes for this survival game.

Have players sit in a circle. Put a pile of "survival" items in the center. Items can include a banana, a flashlight, a can of tuna, etc. Be creative! Make sure that when the game starts, your pile contains one item less than the total number of players.

To play, start telling a silly story about a group of friends stranded on a tropical island. Each time you say the word "sand" as you tell your story, contestants must grab one of the items. The player who does not grab an item is out. Remember, your story doesn't need to make much sense—you just need to throw in the word "sand" every few sentences. After each grab, return all but one of the survival items to the center of the circle. Continue telling the story until only one survivor is left.

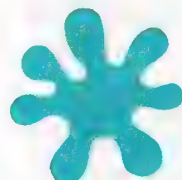
## The Newly Buds Game

Find out how well your friends *really* know each other.

Each player needs a partner. (Partners should know each other.) Send one partner from each pair into another room. Have the remaining players write down their answers to these questions:

- How many brothers and sisters does your bud have?
- What color are her eyes?
- What's her favorite movie?
- Would your bud rather...  
sing a song in front of her class  
or wear pj's to school?
- Would your bud rather...  
give up weekends  
or summer vacation?
- Would your bud pick...  
chocolate or vanilla?  
rock 'n' roll or country?  
hamburgers or hot dogs?  
cats or dogs?  
pens or pencils?  
truth or dare?

Call all players back into the room. One question at a time, the players who left the room take turns answering the questions out loud. After each answer, the player's partner reads the answer she wrote down. The team with the most matching answers wins.





## Creative Cash

Decorate your party room with strings of money—

play money, that is! You can find play money at most discount stores and

## The Price Is Wrong!

Find out if your pals can spot a bargain with these fun pricing games.

### The Grocery Game

Before the party, go grocery shopping with your dad or mom and buy five funny, inexpensive food items (blue licorice, a rutabaga, marshmallow creme, etc.). Keep a list of the prices. To play, set out the items and ask contestants to list them in order from the cheapest to the most expensive. All players who guess correctly are winners.



### Higher or Lower?

To prepare for this game, look through the ads in your Sunday newspaper. Cut out pictures of five products you like. You might choose popular new cars, video games, CD players, toys, etc. Keep a list of the prices. At

the party, set out the pictures and label them with incorrect prices. Each player writes down whether she thinks the *real* price of each item is higher or lower than the price shown. The player with the most correct guesses wins.



## Who Wants to Be a Smarty Pants?

See which of your friends have a talent for trivia!

Divide your guests into three teams. Give each team \$500 in play money. Ask a trivia question. Tell players that each team needs to decide on and write down its "final answer." If any team answers incorrectly, it must

give up \$100. Each team has one "lifesaver"—one chance to ask anyone in the house for help with a question. Continue asking questions. The last team with any money wins!



### Trivia Trouble?

Where can you find great trivia questions for your game show party?

- A.** In games such as Trivial Pursuit Junior, Quiz Master, and The Game of Knowledge
- B.** In books of trivia questions such as Jeopardy Quiz Book 1 and The Cultural Literacy Trivia Guide
- C.** In the World Almanac and the Guinness Book of World Records
- D.** In the School Smarts Pop Quiz in "Fun for Girls" at [www.americangirl.com](http://www.americangirl.com)
- E.** All of the above!





grocery stores. Tape your silly bills to a long piece of string or ribbon, and

then drape strings of your funny money all around the party room.



Credits on page 2.

## Celebrity Squares

To play this twist on tic-tac-toe, you need two teams, X's and O's.

Before the party, draw a giant tic-tac-toe grid on a sheet of poster board. Cut big X's and O's (five of each) from construction paper. Cut out nine celebrity faces from magazines, and paste one face on each square of the grid. Prepare three trivia questions about each of the celebrities. For example, you might ask, "What TV show stars this person?" or "What's the

name of this singer's most recent CD?"

To start the game, the O team chooses a celebrity. Ask the team a question about that person. If the players answer correctly, they get to tape an O on the person they chose. Then the X team takes a turn. The first team to mark three celebrities in a row wins. If it's a draw, play again!



## Stunts in a Second

In this game, contestants find out how well they can pull off a silly stunt in 30 seconds or less.

Before the party, write descriptions of silly stunts on slips of paper. Your stunts don't have to make sense. Ask contestants to dance like a monkey, act invisible, sing like a clown, or pretend the floor is really hot!

At the party, each player draws a slip and reads the stunt out loud. Then she must perform the stunt in no more

than 30 seconds. Here's the twist: contestants get *no* time to prepare! Have your dad or mom act as a judge for this comical contest. The judge names winners in different categories (funniest performance, most accurate, silliest, etc.). Playing this game takes guts, so give every contestant a prize!



## Prizes and Parting Gifts

Reward your winning contestants with these fun favors:

- Money (chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil and 100 Grand candy bars)
- New cars (toy-sized, of course)
- Tantalizing trips (to the video store or the ice cream shop)
- Beautiful jewelry (funky and cheap or made of candy!)

Make sure every contestant goes home with at least one fun prize! ★



# Wishes

## Around the World

From candy to crickets,  
here's how girls around the world make wishes!



When a girl in **Argentina** bumps her elbow, if she doesn't touch or rub it, she gets to make three wishes.

Each spring, some girls in **Denmark** watch carefully for snowdrop flowers to bloom. The girls enclose a blossom along with an unsigned, snowflake-shaped letter written to a friend. When the friend receives her letter, she tries to guess who sent it. Some girls also make a wish on the blossom.



A **Venezuelan** girl has to be quick to make her wish! If she catches a cricket, she holds it between her two cupped hands, whispers her wish to the cricket, and lets it go.





# Team Armstrong

Space Camp is all about teamwork. When you're up in space, you have to work together or something can really go wrong. People's lives are at risk! Along with nine other kids, I was on Armstrong team.

Each team worked hard to get ready for a pretend space shuttle mission. It was like a big "hands-on" test. Each kid had to pick one job at mission control and one job on the shuttle and then explain why she wanted those jobs.

In the 1960s, astronauts traveled all the way to the moon in capsules like this one. The Apollo capsule was so small! It wasn't too bad to get out of it. On the space shuttle, today's astronauts have a lot more room.

We make a great team!

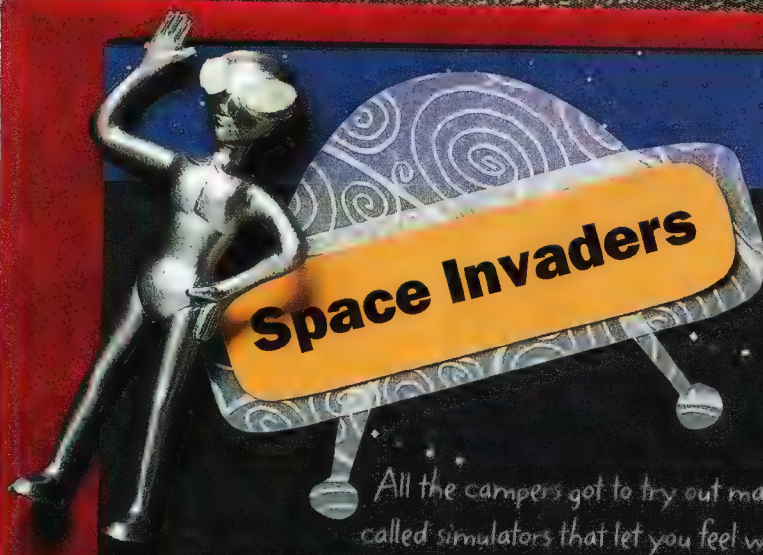


I was Launch and Landing Director. From the mission control center, I was in charge of the countdown for blastoff, and I kept the pilots informed of the weather conditions and landing site. I've always seen guys doing the countdown, and I thought it would be cool for a girl to do it!

I wonder what this does?







## Space Invaders

All the campers got to try out machines called simulators that let you feel what it's like to be in space. First I strapped into the Five Degrees of Freedom chair. The SDF shows you what it's like to be weightless. In space, gravity doesn't pull you down to Earth. If I pushed off of the wall in the SDF, I started rocking. That's because every action has an equal and opposite reaction.



The Multi-Axis Trainer (MAT) was next. It's supposed to make you feel like you're in a space capsule that's tumbling out of control! The MAT is made up of a chair that sits inside three large metal circles that move in different directions. Our time in the chair came just after lunch, and when I first saw it, I wished I hadn't eaten. I was really afraid I would get dizzy. I didn't, though, because the MAT doesn't spin in the same direction more than twice. I couldn't tell which way was up or down, but it was fun!

Some space suits weigh as much as 250 pounds. That doesn't feel like much in space, but it's a lot while you're still on Earth.

Shuttle astronauts wear basically the same flight suit I wore at camp, plus a pair of socks. They don't have to wear shoes up there. Since they're weightless they can't step in anything!





## The Final Countdown!

When the time came for our pretend shuttle mission, we had practiced, studied, and most important, learned to work as a team. I was kind of nervous. I didn't want to mess up! We were on a shuttle orbiter simulator called Intrepid. For our mission, we would launch Intrepid into space, complete a few tasks, and return to Earth.



3

2

1

The crew waited for me—Launch and Landing Director—to give the countdown: “Ten, nine, eight . . .” Finally, we made it to the end and I got to say, “Intrepid, you are cleared for landing.” Thanks to teamwork, the mission was a success. No one was lost in space!

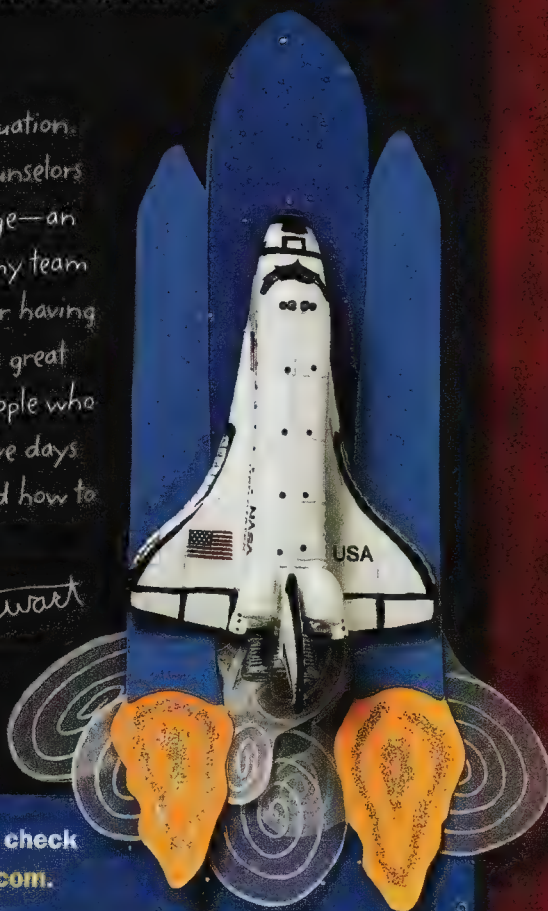
I was really proud at Space Camp graduation.

I walked across the stage and my counselors turned over my wings badge—an astronaut tradition. Plus, my team received a special award for having the best mission. What a great accomplishment for ten people who didn't know each other five days earlier. We really learned how to be a team! ★

Nichole Stewart



For more information, check out [www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com).





## Quiz

# Test Your Celestial Style

What's your space personality? Are you a **Shooting Star**, a **Mysterious Moon**, or a **Down-to-Earth Planet**? Take this quiz to find out!

1. Yippee! Summer's almost here. What are you going to do first?
- Throw a party for all your friends
  - Get lost in a book
  - Work on passing your swimming test

2. Your favorite accessory is...

- a sparkly bracelet.
- your grandma's antique locket.
- a glow-in-the-dark watch.

3. Kayla asks you to sign her yearbook. You...
- dash off your fanciest signature and run to class.
  - ask if you can keep her yearbook until after lunch so you can think about what to say.
  - do your trademark "2001" doodle that you're doing for everyone this year.



6. Your school is putting on a play. What part do you want?
- The lead, of course!
  - Costume designer
  - Me, on stage? No thanks—you'll find me in the audience!

7. In your free time, you like to...
- hang out with your friends.
  - write poetry.
  - surf the Net for tips on training your dog.

8. If you spoke Spanish fluently, how many people would know?
- Everyone you know
  - Only your very best friend
  - Only people who speak Spanish, too

¡Hola amigos!



# Answers

5. In 20 years, you'll be famous because you...

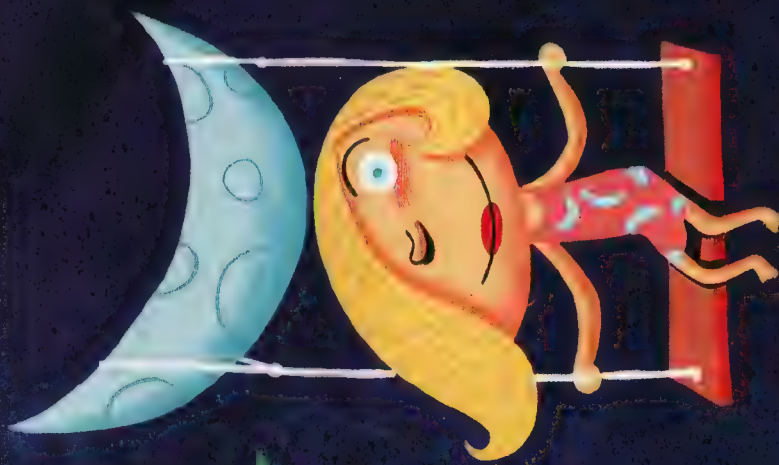
- a. are a popular singer.
- b. wrote a best-selling mystery series.
- c. discovered a cure for cancer.



Mostly a's

## Shooting Star

You have all the flash and panache of a shooting star. You love to be on the move, and you're usually surrounded by a galaxy of friends—to you, no one is an alien. With your sparkling personality, the world revolves around you! Just remember to let others shine, too.



Mostly b's

## Mysterious Moon

You tend to reveal your true self to others a sliver at a time. You're known for being thoughtful and reflective, and your friends count on your creative solutions to their problems. Don't get left in the dark, though, when it's time for fun—you have a lot to share!



Mostly c's

## Down-to-Earth Planet

With your sharp mind and dependable nature, you're never lost in space! You dream big, and you plan and work hard to get what you want. Your friends know you always keep your promises. Don't be afraid to spin out of your daily orbit now and then—you never know what adventures might await.



# CATKIN

BY ANTONIA BARBER  
ILLUSTRATED BY P.J. LYNCH

The Little People took baby Carrie away, and it was Catkin's duty to bring her back. But could such a tiny cat outwit them?

There was once a cat so small that he could sit on the palm of a man's hand. He lived with a Wise Woman on the top of a round green hill. The Wise Woman named him Catkin because his golden tail was no bigger than the hazel catkins that danced outside her window.



Now at the foot of the hill, there lived a good farmer and his wife. And deep inside the hill lived the Little People, who are not born, and who do not die, but are there always.

The farmer and his wife had but one child, a baby girl named Carrie for whom they had waited many long years.



When Catkin was old enough to leave home, the Wise Woman put him in a basket and took him to the farmer's wife as a gift.

As they went down the hill she talked to Catkin, telling him to keep watch over the little girl. For she had seen in the dark sky of the child's birth that some danger came toward her.

Carrie and Catkin loved each other, and where one went, the other was always close by. Through the long summer days they played together.

One day, Carrie went out with her mother to

gather blackberries, taking Catkin with her in her pocket. When the child grew tired, her mother laid her to sleep among the bushes, telling the little cat to keep watch. Catkin curled up beside her and for a while purred contentedly.

But as time passed and the shadows lengthened, he grew restless. A butterfly perched on the bright gold of Carrie's sunlit hair, but finding there no flower, flew off again. Without a thought, Catkin went after it, leaping from bush to bramble, twisting and tumbling among the fading grasses. Far up the valley he followed and forgot the child.

Then there came a strange quietness upon the air and, pausing breathless, Catkin heard the first faint notes of a faraway music coming from deep inside the hill. His fur rose up in fear and he crouched in the shadows as the soft sound grew.

Out of the green hillside, into the misty sunlight, came the Little People. They were pale and beautiful and laughed together, and some danced to the strange music. In the midst of them rode the Lord of the Little People upon a small pony, and beside him rode his Lady with her hair dark as the night sky and her eyes green as deep water.

Catkin watched in dismay as they moved away down the valley, for he saw that their path would take them to the sleeping child.









He ran after them, but on his tiny legs he could not keep up. They passed on into the mist and out of sight; even the faint sound of their music died upon the air

and he was left alone in the silence.

Still he ran on, over rough stones and through sharp thorns, afraid that he would find the child gone. So when he came at last to the place where he had left her, and saw that she lay sleeping

as before, he purred with delight and curled up close beside her. But when he touched her skin it was strangely cold, and as she stirred, she whimpered and pushed him away.

Her mother came and, thinking the child had taken chill in the evening mist, wrapped her in a shawl and carried her home. She sent her husband to fetch the Wise Woman, who came at once to gaze upon the sleeping child. Long she looked and sadly she sighed.

"Here is a changeling," she said, "a child made by enchantment. It will fade as the leaves fall and when Christmas comes, it will find you childless."

At this the mother cried out, "My child! Where is my child?"

"Alas," said the Wise Woman, "she is gone under the green hill and the Little People have taken her."

Then the mother wept and the farmer pleaded, "What wrong have we done them that they should bring this grief upon us?"

"They mean you no harm," said the Wise Woman gently. "They are immortal and so childless. They do not know the bond between parent and child. When the nights grow long under the green hill, they grow restless and long for new company."

"I will go down into the darkness," said the farmer bravely. "I will show them our sadness and beg them to return our child."

But the Wise Woman shook her head, saying, "No man can find the magic door that leads into the green hill." And she sat deep in thought,

while the farmer sought in vain to comfort his wife.

Then Catkin, who had hidden himself for shame, crept out from under the Wise Woman's skirts and leapt up onto her knee. He gazed at her with his golden eyes, and looking into the depths of them, she read his thoughts. At last she smiled. "This little one shall go," she said. "By his carelessness was your child taken, and through his courage, she shall come home to you."

"A cat so small!" exclaimed the farmer. "What can he do?"

"It is his size that saves us," said the Wise Woman. "For him the smallest rabbit hole is a highway into the hillside."

"And if he should find her," said the farmer, "how shall a cat plead our cause?"

"In that land of enchantment," said the Wise Woman, "even the beasts may speak and be understood."

She put Catkin upon her shoulder and set out





with him up the green hillside. And as they went, she searched her wisdom for what help she could find. "Two streams flow into that hidden land," she told him. "One flows from among the hazel trees and these are the waters of wisdom. The other runs down from the willow pool and these are the waters of forgetfulness. Therefore drink



nothing that is offered, but only from the hazel stream." She set Catkin down beside a rabbit hole and parted from him with one last warning: that he tell no one his true name. "For if

you speak your name," she told him, "they will weave spells to bind you in that land forever."

Catkin set out boldly into the black hole and for a long time he wandered in the mazy, earth-smelling darkness. Then he saw a gleam of light ahead and came out into a strange and beautiful world. He found vast caverns within the hollow hill where the walls shone gold and silver and lay reflected in deep lakes of still green waters.

On he went into the very heart of the hill and came, at last, to a splendid palace full of light and glittering with gems.

Here the Lord of the Little People held his revels, with music and dancing and sumptuous foods. And by his side sat his Lady with the child upon her knee.

Watching them from the shadows, Catkin saw that the Lady loved the child, stroking her golden hair and feeding her only the choicest morsels. And he saw also that Carrie loved the Lady, putting up her little hands to touch the gentle face. Then he knew that she had drunk the waters of the willow pool and no longer remembered her true home.







When the Little People saw Catkin, they were delighted by the strangeness of a cat so small. The Lady picked him up and laughing set him upon the child's knee. Though Carrie could

not remember Catkin, she found in him a tiny playmate. The little cat was soon in great favor with the Lady and her Lord, and Catkin found that he could indeed speak to them and be understood.

Yet always Catkin drank from the hazel stream and would not tell his name, and by this the Lord of the Little People knew that he did not mean to stay.

He has come for the child, he thought, and he smiled, for his power was great and he did not think that so small a cat could outwit him.

Now the Little People were very fond of riddles. Catkin proved himself very cunning at this sport, and for this the Lord came to love his company. And it troubled him that the little cat would not speak his name, and so might leave them as suddenly as he had come. And the Lord and his Lady thought how they might catch the little cat and bind him to them forever.

On the next day there was a great banquet to mark the turning of the year, when the days begin to lengthen and the nights grow shorter. After the feasting the riddles began. Catkin outwitted them all.

Then the Lord of the Little People smiled and his dark eyes were mocking. He held out his silver cup to Catkin saying, "Will you not drink with us now, in friendship?"

And when the little cat would not drink, he said, "Will you not even tell us your name?"

And when Catkin would not tell it, he said, "Then it seems to us that you have come for the child."

Catkin saw that the truth must be told and he answered, "My Lord, I have indeed come for the child. It was by my carelessness that you found her unguarded, and her mother weeps for the loss of her."

"Why, so would my Lady weep, if you should

**"I should be sad, Little Cat, to lack winter evenings. Come, will you not**



take the child from us," replied the Lord, "and I should be sad, Little Cat, to lack your company through the long winter evenings. Come, will you not drink with us and forget the past? Have we not made your life pleasant enough?"

"This life is pleasant, indeed," said Catkin sadly, "but there is no peace for me until the wrong is righted."

For a while the Lord sat frowning. "Then we will give you a challenge, Little Cat," he said. "We shall set you three riddles. If you cannot solve them all, you shall drink from my cup and forget the past. But if you answer all three, then the child shall go free."



Catkin looked to the Lady, thinking she would cry out. But she sat smiling. Her smile made Catkin pause and for a moment he was afraid. But seeing no other way, he said, "It shall be as you will."

"Why then," said the Lord, "hear the first riddle:

*your company through the long  
drink with us and forget the past?"*



*So be it, though I am not high, my magic branches  
sweep the sky."*



Catkin thought hard and then he said, "When you say 'So be it' you tell us what is your WILL; and that which is not high is LOW. And the tree of enchantment whose branches sweep the sky is the WILLOW."

"Why, so it is!" said the Lord laughing. "Now hear the second riddle: *The meadow's wealth I*

*trade for gold, yet wisdom  
in my fruit I hold."*

Catkin thought harder. At last he said, "The wealth of the meadow lies in the HAY, and to trade for gold is to SELL. And the tree whose fruit holds wisdom is the HAZEL."

"You are a worthy opponent, Little Cat," said the Lord, and his People clapped and cheered.

Then the Lady spoke and her eyes were soft upon the child in her arms. "Let the third riddle be mine, my Lord," she said.

"As you will, my Lady," said the Lord.

Now though Carrie had forgotten Catkin, there was a name she murmured in her sleep and this the Lady had heard. She looked up at Catkin.

"Hear my riddle," she said. "*Mouse hunter, closer than friend, wind dancer at the bough's end.*"

Then hope died in Catkin's heart. For he knew that the mouse hunter is the CAT; and those who are closer than friends are our KIN; and that which dances at the bough's end is the CATKIN. And he knew that to solve the riddle he must speak his name, and if he did so, the child would go free. But once that name was spoken, the Lord would have power to hold him under the green hill forever.

But Catkin knew that he would have no peace unless the price was paid. "My Lady," he said, "I speak that which I would rather keep secret. For the answer is CATKIN and the child must go free."







When he spoke these words, Carrie cried out for joy as she remembered her little cat, but the Lady cried for grief that she must lose the child.

Now the Lord of the Little People found himself with a riddle that he could not solve. For if the child went free, his Lady would grieve. And if Catkin stayed behind, the child would grieve, for she loved the little cat and would not now be parted from him. And if both went free, then how long the winter nights would be, with his Lady pining and no Catkin to riddle with him!

"You have solved three riddles, Catkin," he said. "Can you not unravel this last one?"

"This last riddle needs wisdom. Let us take it to the Wise Woman," answered Catkin.

And so it was that the Little People rode out once more. They came straight to the Wise Woman's house, and they laid their riddle before her. The Wise Woman sat in silence for a long time.

Then she said to the Lady, "Though your grief be great, yet greater is her grief that bore the child: Therefore Carrie shall return to her mother." Then she turned to the Lord and said, "Without

the little cat, the child will grieve, therefore Catkin shall go with the child."

And though he had power to bind Catkin to him, the Lord bowed his head. "We have sought your judgement," he said, "and we will abide by it."

The Wise Woman said, "Because you have given up your power over them, the child and the little cat shall come to you each year when the nights are longest. When the first hazel catkins dance in the wind, they shall return to dwell in their own land."

Joy was reborn in the Lady's heart when she heard these words, for though the parting pained her, she knew that she would see the child again. She rode with her Lord away into the starlit night and the Little People returned under the green hill.

Then the Wise Woman set Catkin upon her shoulder and carried the child home. The farmer and his wife saw them coming down the hill, and soon all were gathered into their loving arms.

When they heard of the Wise Woman's judgement, they were generous in their joy, and gave their consent to the sharing. And from that day, the good man and his wife lived in peace with Carrie and Catkin and the Little People, and the farm on the green hillside flourished. ★

Meet the Author

**ANTONIA BARBER**



My sister is also a writer. While we were growing up, we used to make up a soap opera when we went to bed at night. Our mother was constantly shouting, "Will you two girls stop talking and go to sleep?" Little did she know we were learning how to tell stories!

Look for *Catkin*, now available in paperback, in bookstores everywhere.











What do you get if you cross an ice cream cone and a canary? A sweet tweet.



**All answers on page 42.**

**What do you call a giant reptile that appears in a Star Wars movie? Darth Gator.**

Sarah Stewart

### Why did Noah's ark sink?

**Age 12, North Carolina**





# Palindrome Press

"All the news that's not fit to print"



This goofy newspaper contains eight *palindromes*—words or phrases that are spelled the same both backward and forward. Can you find them all?

## Neil A. Sees Alien!



Reports say the first man to set foot on the moon encountered a life form from outer space. "I did, did I?" was Mr. Armstrong's only comment on the matter.

## Local News

A crash shocked last night's crowd at the Mixed Motor Speedway when a racecar (a Toyota) and a kayak collided. Fortunately, no one was hurt.



## "Was it a cat I saw?"

Mrs. Green searches for her senile felines. The forgetful old cats got loose last week, and Mrs. Green is worried they won't be able to find their way home. She has this warning for her neighbors: "Step on no pets!"

## Math-ter-mind



Use a calculator to solve this math problem. Then turn the calculator upside down to read the missing word in the riddle:

$$77,000,000 + 600,000 - 255,000 + 400 - 65 =$$

Why did the oyster need to get glasses? Because she lost her SEESHELL!

## Posy Puzzler

Which flower in Brianna's bouquet has the larger center?

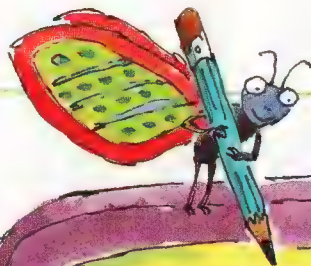


Because he brought along two termites! Maddie Smith What kind of fruit lives in a barn? A straw-berry. Triana Conley

Age 10, California

Age 12, California

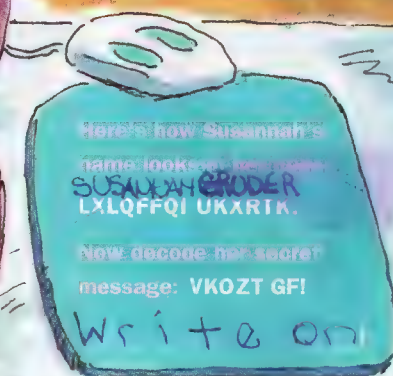
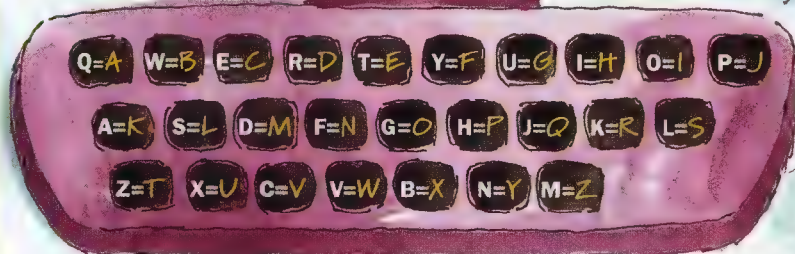




## The Giggle Gang

### Typewriting

Susannah Gruder, age 10, of New York sent in this clever code. Susannah wrote out the letters of the alphabet as they appear on a keyboard. Then she paired each keyboard letter (white) with another letter (yellow), working through the alphabet from a to z.



Becky Gerla  
Age 11, Minnesota

"You can't see me because I'm on the other side of the door!" "I can't see who?" "Who's there?" "Knock, knock."

Kelly Lee  
Age 11, Pennsylvania

## Under the Rainbow

Underline the names of different rainbow colors in these silly sentences. We did the first one for you.

1. Ask the florist to add a larkspur, red, please, to the bouquet.
2. Will you agree never to tell this secret?
3. All the girls wore dresses to the school dance.
4. Jill loves to play bluegrass music on her banjo.
5. Do you like cookies shaped like bells or angels?
6. If you stub your toe, yell, "Ow!"

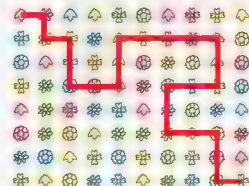


Sara Anderson What is it that's hard to catch when you're running but easy to catch when you stop? Your breath.

Age 9, Kansas

## Answer Box

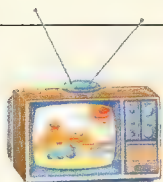
- Posy Puzzler: Both flowers have the same size centers.
- Under the Rainbow: 1. spur, please 2. agree never 3. wore dresses 4. bluegrass 5. or angels 6. yell, "Ow!"
- Typewriting: Write on! Toyota; kayak; Was it a cat I saw, senile felines; Step on no pets panache; is used on page 31.
- Petal Puzzlers: 1. C, 2. A, 3. D, 4. B
- seeshell (77,345,335 upside down)
- Math-ter-mind: Neil A. Sees Allen; I did, did I; racecar; a
- Palindrome Press: Toyota; kayak; Was it a cat I saw, senile felines; Step on no pets panache; is used on page 31.
- seeshell (77,345,335 upside down)





# Who's That Girl?

*Here's an American girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.*



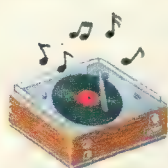
## Clue 1

My family was poor when I was young, and we didn't always have a TV. But when we did, I loved watching cartoons. My favorite was the quick and clever Roadrunner. Beep! Beep!



## Clue 2

In grade school, I played softball, volleyball, and tetherball. I took up basketball in high school, and during one game, I scored 45 points! Games like that helped earn me the nickname, "The Wizard."



## Clue 3

As a girl, I taught myself to dance playing Jackson Five records. Facing my mirror, I moved and grooved for hours to smash hits like "ABC" and "Rockin' Robin."



## Clue 4

I had seven siblings, and we each had our assigned chores to complete before we could go outside and play. I was so eager to go out that I often did all of their work in addition to my own!



Here I am at age 8.



## Clue 5

Because my eyes were crossed, others teased me. At age nine, surgery fixed my eyes. After that, the field of medicine fascinated me, because I thought it would be great to make others feel better.

## Take a guess!

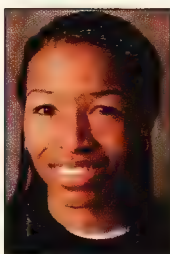
When this American girl grew up, she became:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a doctor     | <input type="checkbox"/> a basketball player   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a cartoonist | <input type="checkbox"/> a professional dancer |

**Turn the page and find out if you're right!**



# She's Cynthia Cooper



As a girl, Cynthia Cooper was called "The Wizard," and as an adult, she's earned lots of new names—including four-time WNBA champ!

Late last summer, with the crowd roaring, Cynthia led her Houston Comets to their fourth straight title. But after an inspiring four-year career as a Comet, Cynthia retired at the end of the season. Now, instead of wowing her fans with her dazzling

skills on the court, she'll work off the court as the new head coach for the Phoenix Mercury.

"I'll miss playing," says Cynthia, "but I'm going to have a busy retirement!" She's written a book, *She Got Game*, that tells how she became an international basketball star. And in addition to coaching, Cynthia's future may include sports broadcasting.



Although Cynthia's life is successful now, life in the violent Los Angeles neighborhood where she grew up was difficult. With little money, barely enough food, and few advantages, she learned to stay focused on her goals. Cynthia dreamed of escaping poverty and creating a better life for herself and her family. Developing her talent for basketball made that possible.

"I had my down moments when I had very little confidence in myself, but there was never a breaking point," Cynthia recalls. "No matter what people said to me, I never felt like I was going to fail." ★

## Cynthia's advice to American girls:

**"No matter what obstacle is placed in front of you, know it's within you to overcome it. Surround yourself with positive people who encourage you!"**

You can write to Cynthia at:  
12520-A1 Westheimer Road  
Suite 151  
Houston, TX 77077

Thanks to her years playing basketball in Europe, Cynthia is fluent in Italian.

Photo credits on page 2.



# HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

I'm 11 and have been in gymnastics for three years. My sister is five and has only been in gymnastics for a year, but she is way better than me! I try really hard, but nothing comes out right. What should I do?

*Flipping Failure*

**Don't get too bent out of shape. Even though she's younger, your sister may be stronger or more flexible than you are, and that would make gymnastics easier for her. Instead of comparing yourself to your sister, focus on how far you've come and on the fun you've had for the past three years. It never hurts to ask for extra help, so see if your coach has tips for practicing safely at home. Give it your best effort, and if you don't catch up to your sister, so what? That's no reason to quit a sport you enjoy.**



**Dear American Girl,**

My dad took away my favorite stuffed animal, and the only way I can get it back is if I keep my room clean for one week.



I'm bad at this. Here's how bad: I haven't seen my stuffed animal for six months! I need tips for keeping my room clean.

*Dust Bunny*

**Here are a couple of tried-and-true tips to having a neat room. First, find a place for everything. Then put everything in its place each night before you go to bed. Yep, each night! Hang up clothes, even if you'll wear them again. Put CDs away even if you play them every day. Store papers or recycle them right away. Make it a habit, and soon you'll have your fluffy friend back.**



**Dear American Girl,**

I sat next to one of my best friends at school. She was doing well because of my help, but when the teacher moved our

desks, my friend's grades began slipping. How can I help her?

*Worried Friend*

**You're a good friend to want to help, but it's not a great idea for your friend to be so dependent on you. The person who can help your friend the most is your teacher. Encouraging your friend to talk to your teacher is the best way to help her and show you care.**



**Dear American Girl,**

In a few weeks, my new older friends and I are going to an amusement park. I'm afraid of big rides, but I don't want to look like a baby.

*Baby maybe?*

**It's O.K. to be a little scared of big rides. They're supposed to be scary—that's half the fun! And as long as you follow the rules, the rides are safe. So if you're even a little bit tempted to give it a try, go for it! But if you are truly terrified, a joke may be your best way out. You can say, "My roller-coaster-it-is is acting up. I think I'll wait for you over here." Don't be surprised if one of your friends joins you!**



# MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'm better at making friends with boys. I just think boys do cool stuff and girls don't. The girls make fun of me. How can I make them stop?

*Boy Friend*

Did you tell the girls that you don't think they're cool? That would have hurt their feelings, and it could be why they're teasing you. If you like what the boys are doing, chances are other girls might, too. Be friendly and invite a few girls to join you the next time you get together with the boys. Even if the girls say no, you've made an effort to include them, and they may be less likely to tease you.

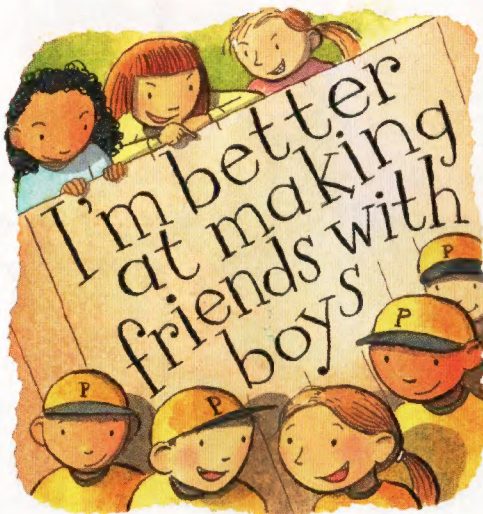


Dear American Girl,

I always have a lot of homework. Sometimes I have so much that I cry. What should I do?

*Too much*

You need a plan. A school planner will help keep track of what you need to do. Think of your work as bite-sized pieces rather than one huge chunk. Picture your projects this way, too. Sometimes it helps



to get the easiest pieces done first. Other times you'll want to tackle the hardest pieces first. Get as much work done at school as you can. For work you bring home, get started early in the evening so you have plenty of time. Having a plan won't cut your homework load, but you'll feel in control.



Dear American Girl,

Everyone I know has seen an R-rated movie except me! When I told my friends, they laughed. I've begged my mom, but she said no.

*Miserable*

There are plenty of kids who have seen R-rated movies who wish they hadn't—especially when the movies were a LOT more violent or scary than the previews made

them seem. Some of the scariest scenes can stay in your head for a long, long time. Your mom is looking out for you, and there's no chance begging will change her mind. So what can you do? First, don't make a big deal out of the fact that you haven't seen an R-rated movie. Second, remember there are tons of other great movies out there, too. Check out listings in a video guide that sound good to you—be sure to look for old movies, too.



## Advice from You

"If you have a nightmare and are too afraid to go back to sleep, think up a happy ending to your bad dream. It always works for me!"

*Shelby Dempsey*  
Age 10, California

Need advice? Got advice? Write:  
Help!

**AmericanGirl**

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562



# Shining Star



**H**annah Kristan used to sit out when her friends played on the playground. The 13-year-old has spina bifida. That means her spine didn't form completely before she was born. In her wheelchair, she couldn't get to the playground equipment. But now, because of her hard work, Hannah can enjoy an afternoon in the park!

*Boundless playgrounds* are parks built so that all kids—including kids in wheelchairs—can play. The parks have swings kids in wheelchairs can use, sandboxes built on tables, and lots more. When Hannah visited a boundless playground

with a friend who lived in another city, she decided the park was exactly what her Connecticut hometown needed.

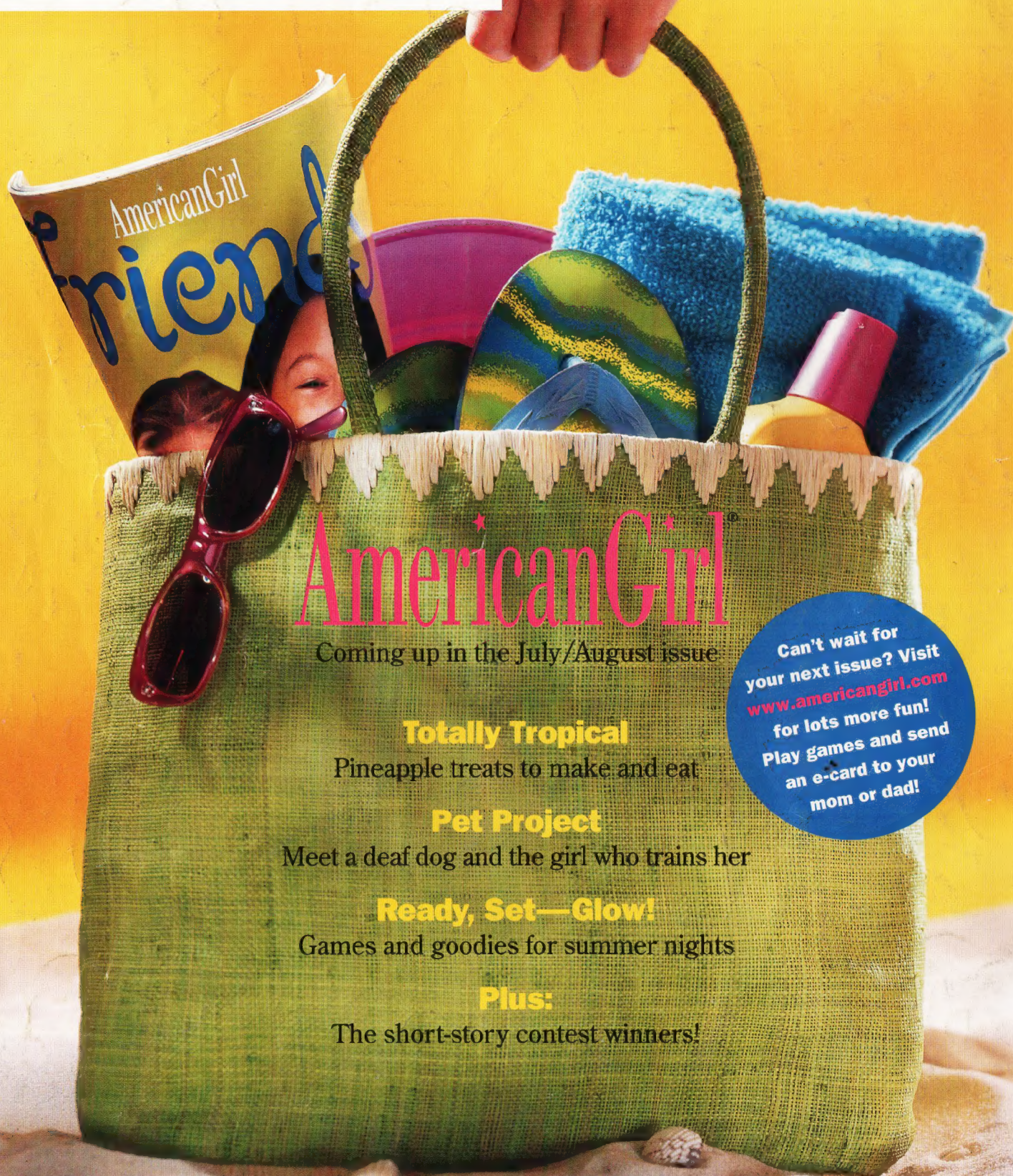
It takes money and land to build a playground. Hannah asked her city's mayor for help, and the city donated some land. Hannah got more help from Easter Seals, and she organized her own fund-raisers, too. It took four years of hard work for Hannah to raise the nearly \$300,000 needed to build the park.

Last summer, volunteers put the finishing touches on Hannah's new park, which is named Hannah's Dream. Hannah says the day the playground

opened was one of the best of her life—she really had made her dream come true! Today, Hannah loves taking her younger sister and brother to visit the park. "I get to play with them side by side now," she says. To find out more, visit [www.boundlessplaygrounds.org](http://www.boundlessplaygrounds.org).

**Do you have a friend who really shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives a certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and AG will donate \$500 to her cause. ★**





# American Girl

Coming up in the July/August issue

## Totally Tropical

Pineapple treats to make and eat

## Pet Project

Meet a deaf dog and the girl who trains her

## Ready, Set—Glow!

Games and goodies for summer nights

## Plus:

The short-story contest winners!

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